



Department of State

**INCOMING
TELEGRAM**

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SECRET

N00698

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08505 090847Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 W

Z 090841Z JUN 82 ZFF-4 -----114637 090855Z /11

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5663
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 08505

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY FLASH

DAMASCUS FOR HABIB FROM LEWIS

E.O. 120651 RDS-1 6/9/82 (LEWIS, SAMUEL W.) OR-M
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, IS, SY, LE, US
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM BEGIN CONCERNING NEW SYRIAN MISSILE
BATTERIES

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SHORTLY AFTER I REACHED TEL AVIV FROM THE AIRPORT
THIS MORNING, BEGIN TELEPHONED ME WITH AN URGENT MESSAGE
WHICH HE WANTED ME TO GET TO YOU BEFORE YOU SEE PRESIDENT
ASSAD,

3. SHARON HAD JUST INFORMED BEGIN THAT AS OF THIS MORN-
ING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, THE SYRIANS HAVE MOVED SIX ADDI-
TIONAL SA-6 MISSILE BATTERIES FROM SYRIA INTO LEBANON. ONE
WAS MOVED APPARENTLY ON MONDAY AND FIVE MORE BATTERIES
MOVED OVER LAST NIGHT. BEGIN SAID THAT THE SYRIANS NOW
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State Dept. review completed

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HAVE NINETEEN SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE BATTERIES IN LEBANON WHICH POSE "A REAL THREAT TO OUR FORCES. THEY THREATEN OUR ARMY, AND I WOULD LIKE HABIB TO MAKE CLEAR TO ASSAD THAT THE SIX BATTERIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ADDED IN THE LAST TWO DAYS MUST BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY."

4. I QUERIED BEGIN AS TO WHETHER ANY OF THE BATTERIES HAVE FIRED AT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT. HE CONSULTED SHARON, WHO WAS NEARBY, AND THEN REPLIED THAT THESE BATTERIES HAVE NOT YET FIRED, ALTHOUGH OTHER SYRIAN GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILE BATTERIES HAVE INDEED DONE SO. THAT WAS ALL THE ELABORATION I COULD EXTRACT FROM HIM.

5. BEGIN WAS CLEARLY IN A CONSIDERABLE STATE OF AGITATION, PREPARING TO ENTER ANOTHER CABINET MEETING TO HEAR THE LATEST REPORTS FROM SHARON, AND SPEAKING ABOUT THE MISSILES IN THE SAME TONE OF VOICE YOU BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO HEARING LAST APRIL-MAY. I CONFINED MY FURTHER REMARKS TO ASSURING HIM I WOULD GET THIS MESSAGE TO YOU IN DAMASCUS IN PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOUR MEETING WITH ASSAD. LEWIS

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